(b) if so, which authority would decide the list of inputs, raw materials and solvents going into the production of bulk drugs for Duty Rationalisation; and

(c) what would be the criteria and by when the list would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of drug intermediates have already been allowed concessional rate of customs duty to ensure that cumulative incidence of duty on the bulk drugs is higher than that on the inputs and drug intermediates. Further action to identify intermediates which are exclusively used in the production on bulk drugs and rationalisation of duty thereon is on in consultation with the Department of Revenue.

Prices of tyres and tubes

335. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the automotive tyre manufacturers have been increasing the prices of the tyres and tubes;

(b) if so, the reasosn for which Government have not taken any steps in this regard;

(c) whether it has also come to the notice of Government that the automotive tyre manufacturers are indulging in various malpractices in marketing tyres and tubes by confusing the public on the informative markings;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government have taken or propose to take against such automotive tyre manufacturers and for checking the rise in prices of tyres and tubes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The tyre manufacturers have not increased the net dealers price since May, 1986. However, there are allegations that the tyre manufacturer have formed a cartel and are indulging in malpractices which are bein looked into in the Monopolistic & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

As regards the informative markings, tyre manufacturers were already indicating certain details like the name of the manufacturer, the size, the direction of rotation etc. on the tyres. A dialogue was also held by the Government with the tyre industry on indication of certain additional details like the month/year of manufacture, maximum selling prices, load marking, minimum mileage guarantee etc. As certain important issues with regard to minimum mileage guarantee and load marking were raised a decision on these labellings has been deferred. It was however, decided that details with regard to month/year of manufacture and the maximum selling price should be indicated on automotive tyres. The manner in which the decisions with regard to these labellings should be implemented is being considered keeping the consumers' interest in view. The Government are having a dialogue both with the manufacturers and the consumers.